

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 are presented for further examination.

The rejections of: (1) claims 1, 3-7, 11, 13-17, and 21-24 over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0194451 ("Lee") further in view of Hamelmann; (2) claims 8, 9, 18, and 19 over Lee further in view of Hamelmann and further in view of Inoue; and (3) claims 10 and 20 over Lee further in view of Hamelmann and further in view of Huppertz, are respectfully traversed.

Lee is prior art as of the filing date of international application PCT/EP2003/050352, July 30, 2003. However, the present application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-100170, which was filed on April 3, 2003. Applicants submit herewith a verified English-language translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-100170, thereby perfecting the priority claim. In the Office Action dated July 13, 2007, acknowledgment was made of the claim to foreign priority and that a copy of the certified copy of the priority document had been received by the USPTO from the International Bureau. Because Lee is not properly available as a reference against the present application, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.


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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038788.56896US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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